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KARMANOS
CANCER INSTITUTE

Wayne State University

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 16
Presented to the House Health Policy Committee
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The Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute is pleased to support Senate Bill 16, introduced by Senator Buzz Thomas, to establish a Prostate Cancer Research Fund in the department of community health.

Prostate Cancer:

- Is the most frequently diagnosed cancer in men over age 40
- Is the second most frequent cause of cancer-related death in males in the United States
- In southeast Michigan, the incidence rates for African Americans and whites are higher than national incidence rates
- Incidence rates among African Americans within the southeast tri-county area is higher than among whites (B/W ratio = 1.61).
- Mortality rates among African Americans in metropolitan Detroit are lower than for African Americans in the national Surveillance Epidemiology and End Results (SEER) database (290 versus 303), but is 2.13 times higher than for whites living in the same geographic area.
- Disparities are not limited to race. Socioeconomic status is also a strong predictor of prostate cancer severity at diagnosis, treatment received following diagnosis, and the likelihood of survival.

Research funds are critical to help ongoing advances in Michigan. The prostate cancer patient population in the Detroit area offers a unique opportunity to address important scientific and clinical questions relating to racial disparity. In order to successfully increase our understanding of prostate cancer, especially in high risk African American males, Michigan is in need of additional funds to support state-of-the-art laboratory and clinical studies.

Grants from the Prostate Cancer Research Fund will help support ongoing research, education and treatment projects like many of those being conducted by the Karmanos Cancer Institute. These include:

- **Forty Two** prostate cancer clinical trial protocols, three of which are specifically related to prostate cancer in African American males are currently being conducted at KCI.
 1. Bone Loss in African American Men vs. White Prostate Cancer Patients Receiving Androgen Deprivation Therapy (ADT).
 2. Determining Factors that Influence Treatment Decisions for Localized/Regional Prostate Cancer in Michigan Men.
 3. Community-Based Prostate Health Awareness Evaluation.

- **Ongoing investigations** to determine whether novel agents may prevent prostate tumor growth in high-risk, post-biopsy white and African American men. Specifically to determine if the promising prevention activity of these nontoxic, economical and available biological agents is inhibited by differential behavioral and environmental factors in African American and white men.
- **The Prostate Health Education Program** promotes awareness of and opportunities for risk assessment among typical risk and potentially higher risk men in community settings, develops and delivers tailored health education messages to men at typical or increased risk by virtue of genetic or other risk factors, and evaluates the initial and longer-term effects of the educational program upon knowledge, attitudes and health related behaviors of typical and higher risk men. From 2000 to 2003, more than 300 sessions were conducted, reaching 8,576 men.
- **The Community Network Program** funded by the National Cancer Institute's Center to Reduce Cancer Health Disparities aims to mobilize 22 community based organizations to address the unequal burden of prostate cancer on older, underserved African American men.
- **The Detroit Education and Early Detection (DEED) Program** was launched to reduce incidents of prostate cancer in the African American community. To reach African American men who are at high risk for prostate cancer the DEED targeted houses of worship. During the two-year DEED program, 1,300 men were tested from 51 churches. 36 cases of prostate cancer were diagnosed. Most were found early enough to undergo surgery.

Your support of Senate Bill 16 will help ensure that life-saving projects like these continue to be conducted right here in Michigan, by some of the Nation's leading prostate cancer specialists.